

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA-NUMBER: CO-100-2008-092 EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC73186

PROJECT NAME: Access Road Right-of-Way (ROW) for Pothook Ranch

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 12 N., R. 89 W., Sec.29, Lot 6; Sec. 32, Lots 2, 9, 6th PM, Moffat County, Colorado (see Exhibit A)

APPLICANT: Donald H. Reid, Jr.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to the following plan:

Name of Plans: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD) approved on April 26, 1989.

Remarks: The proposed project would be located within Management Unit 1 (Eastern Yampa River). Within Management Unit 1, realty actions such as rights-of-way, leases and permits can be allowed consistent with the management objectives for the unit. Special stipulations, such as seasonal restrictions, may be added to permits, licenses, leases, etc., if necessary to mitigate impacts.

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3). The proposed action is in conformance with the objectives for the management unit.

NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION: The purpose of the proposed action is to authorize a road across public land to allow the applicant to have legal access to a detached private parcel.

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS: The application has been posted on the public NEPA log of the Little Snake Field Office.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES: The proposed action is to grant an access road ROW to Donald H. "Jeff" Reid, Jr., representing himself and the other owners of the Pothook Ranch. The proposed road would be constructed across private and public lands, overlaying an existing two-track for most of the route. The existing two-track would be

upgraded to a crowned and ditched 14-foot driving surface road. All new construction would be crowned and ditched with a 14-foot driving surface. The route of the upslope portion of the proposed road in Section 32 was modified so that the grade is less than 10%. Culverts would be placed for any additional drainage needs on the new portion of road. Any unused portions of the existing two-track would be reclaimed after construction. No temporary construction areas would be necessary. Mitigation not incorporated by the applicant into the Plan of Development would be attached by the BLM as stipulations to the ROW grant.

The project is located approximately 45 miles northeast of Craig, Colorado. Construction work is planned to start in 2009 and total estimated duration of construction is 14 days. Length of the proposed access road on public land is 3,175 feet. Width of the road would be 20 feet. Total surface disturbance on public lands would be approximately 1.46 acres.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE: The “no action” alternative is that the access road would not be permitted. Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, BLM has the authority to authorize necessary rights-of-way if the environmental consequences are not irreversible or too severe. The land use authorization process is designed to overcome the “no action” situation of not permitting proposed actions through the mitigation of predicted environmental consequences. Since the proposed action is consistent with the Little Snake RMP/ROD, rejecting the proposed action was considered but will not be analyzed further in this EA.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/MITIGATION MEASURES

CRITICAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences: Short term, local impacts to air quality would be present from dust generated during road construction. Additional localized dust may result from driving on unpaved access road, but this would be negligible compared to dust generated from all vehicle uses on unpaved roads in the vicinity. The proposed action if selected would not cause regional air quality impairment.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 8/28/08

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer, 8/11/08

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Cultural resources, in this region of Colorado, range from late Paleo-Indian to Historic. For a general understanding of the cultural resources in this area of Colorado, see *An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, *An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Northern Colorado River Basin*, Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project, Pothook Ranch Road Right of Way, has undergone a Class III cultural resource survey:

Hatcher, Julie

2008 Class III Intensive Survey for the Winston Boyer Access 2 located in Sections 21, 28, 29, 32, T12N R89W, Moffat County, Colorado.

The survey identified no eligible to the National Register of Historic Places cultural resources. The proposed project may proceed as described in this EA with the following mitigative measures in place.

Mitigative Measures:

The following standard stipulations apply for this project:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000, and with written confirmation, immediately upon

the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

2. If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation costs. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 9/12/08

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area of isolated dwellings. Ranching, farming and oil/gas development are the primary economic activities.

Environmental Consequences: The project area is relatively isolated from population centers, so no populations would be affected by physical or socioeconomic impacts of the proposed action. The proposed action would not directly affect the social, cultural or economic well-being and health of Native American, minority or low-income populations.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mike Andrews, 8/11/08

FLOOD PLAINS

Affected Environment: No floodplain areas are present along the proposed access road on public lands.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 8/28/08

INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Invasive species and noxious weeds occur within the affected area. Downy brome (cheatgrass), yellow alyssum, blue mustard and other annual weeds are common along roadsides and on other disturbed areas. Halogeton is less common in this

area but it is encroaching from the west. Canada thistle and several species of biennial thistles are known to occur in this area. Russian knapweed, spotted knapweed, Mediterranean sage, houndstongue, hoary cress (whitetop), tall whitetop, leafy spurge and dalmation toadflax have been reported or occur in the vicinity of the proposed access road. Other species of noxious weeds are not known to be a problem in this area, but could be introduced from other areas. The BLM, Moffat County, livestock operators, pipeline companies and oil and gas operators have formed the Northwest Colorado Weed Partnership to collaborate their efforts on controlling weeds and finding the best integrated approaches to achieve these results.

Environmental Consequences: Construction activities to upgrade the proposed access road and subsequent vehicle traffic would create a favorable environment and provide a mode of transport for invasive and noxious weeds to become established. These weeds can be spread through a variety of means including by vehicular travel, construction equipment, gravel application on road surface, wind, water, wildlife and livestock movement. The annual invasive weed species (yellow alyssum, blue mustard and other annual weeds) occur on adjacent rangelands and would occupy the disturbed areas; the bare soils and the lack of competition from a perennial plant community would allow these weed species to grow unchecked and can affect the establishment of seeded or colonizing plant species. Establishment of perennial grasses and other seeded plants is expected to provide the necessary control of invasive annual weeds within 2 or 3 years. Additional seeding treatments of the disturbed areas may be required in subsequent years if initial seeding efforts have failed or natural colonization has not occurred. If halogeton becomes established more intensive control measures would be needed to prevent this annual noxious weed from increasing in abundance in this area.

The perennial and biennial noxious weeds in the area are less frequently established on the uplands but some potential exists for their establishment in draws and swales or in drainage ditches along the road that would collect additional water. The largest concern in the project area would be for these species to become established and not be detected, providing seed which can be moved onto adjacent rangelands. The right-of-way holder would be required to control any invasive and/or noxious weeds that become established within the right-of-way.

Successful interim reclamation of the unused areas of the access road, as well as weed control utilizing integrated practices, including herbicide applications, would help to control the noxious weed species. All principles of Integrated Pest Management should be employed to control noxious and invasive weeds on public lands.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 8/29/08

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The proposed project area provides nesting habitat for golden eagles, Brewer's sparrow and sage sparrow. All three species are on the USFWS' 2002 Birds of Conservation Concern list. Two nesting areas near the project area contain seven historical golden eagle nest sites.

Environmental Consequences: Construction activities associated with upgrading existing access road and building new portions of the road could disrupt nesting activities leading to nest abandonment by all three species. It is also possible that nest sites for Brewers sparrow and sage sparrow could be destroyed by construction equipment. These activities should not be conducted during the nesting season. If these activities occur outside of the nesting season, there would be little chance for take to occur.

Mitigative Measures: No surface disturbing activities between March 1 and August 15 in order to protect nesting golden eagles.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 8/18/08

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council on May 5, 2008. The letter listed the FY08 and FY09 projects that the BLM would notify them on and projects that would not require notification. A follow-up phone call was performed on June 16, 2008. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 9/12/08

PRIME & UNIQUE FARMLANDS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 8/28/08

T&E SPECIES – ANIMALS

Affected Environment: There are no threatened or endangered species or habitat for such species present within the proposed project area. The proposed access road is located within

greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat. Both species are BLM special status species. There are two active greater sage-grouse leks within two miles of the proposed access road.

Environmental Consequences, proposed action: There would be no impact to threatened or endangered species or their habitats. Both active greater sage-grouse leks are located over 1 mile from the access road and have significant topographical barriers between the road and the lek site. This should be sufficient to protect the integrity of the lek site and ensure that breeding greater sage-grouse are not disturbed. Construction of the access road would remove nesting habitat for both greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. If construction activities are conducted during the nesting season, it is possible that active nests could be abandoned or destroyed. Permanent loss of approximately 1 1/2 acres of habitat on public lands can be expected as a result of this project. Traffic along the proposed access road is expected to remain pretty low. It is unlikely the access road would provide a significant source of mortality to either species.

Mitigative Measures: No surface disturbing activities allowed between March 1 and June 30 in order to protect nesting greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 8/18/08

T&E SPECIES – PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered plant species within or in the vicinity of the proposed right-of-way.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 8/14/08

T&E SPECIES - SENSITIVE PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no BLM sensitive plant species within or in the vicinity of the proposed right-of-way.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 8/14/08

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: If an unexpected release does occur, the affected environment would be dependent on the nature and volume of material released. If there are no releases, there would be no environmental impact.

Environmental Consequences: The consequences would depend on the volume and nature of the material released. In most situations involving hazardous materials, there are ways to remediate the area that has been contaminated. Short-term consequences would occur, but they can be remedied, and long-term impacts would be minimal.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mike Andrews, 8/11/08

WATER QUALITY - GROUND

Affected Environment: Mesozoic rocks overlain by Quaternary alluvium.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Marilyn Wegweiser, 8/18/08

WATER QUALITY - SURFACE

Affected Environment: Drainage and runoff water from the proposed construction of the access road would flow to Jack Rabbit Creek and an unnamed ephemeral tributary to the east. Jack Rabbit Creek is a perennial tributary of Slater Creek which is a perennial tributary to the Little Snake River. The Little Snake River and Slater Creek, including all of its tributaries need to have water quality that will support Aquatic Life Cold 1, Recreation 1a, Water Supply and Agriculture. These streams are presently supporting their classified uses.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed upgrades and construction of the road would follow a professionally engineered road design. This plan reduces the grade of the proposed road to less than 10 percent and provides proper drainage of the road surface by crowning and ditching. Ditches would be drained utilizing natural terrain and adequately spaced 18-inch culverts to reduce the lengths of channelized runoff within the ditches, thereby reducing soil erosion to an acceptable level.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 8/29/08

WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Tim Novotny, 8/18/08

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

Affected Environment: Not Present.

Environmental Consequences: Not Applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not Applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer, 8/11/08

WSAs, WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer, 8/11/08

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

SOILS

Affected Environment: On BLM lands the access road would be constructed on soils mapped as the Ironsprings loamy sand, 1 to 15 percent slopes, although a very short segment of the middle portion of the road would cross a corner of BLM lands where soils are mapped as the Rock River sandy loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes. Each of these soils are considered to be a good source for road fill materials and each are somewhat limited for use as local roads due to slope. These soils are identified as having a moderate soil rutting hazard and moderate erosion hazard when used as non-surfaced roads.

Environmental Consequences: Properties of the inherent soils are moderately favorable for use as a local road and the designed improvements would increase the suitability of the soil

materials for this use. The road alignment has been designed to avoid slopes in excess of 10 percent which would help maintain soil erosion to an acceptable level. Maintenance of the road crown and associated drainage features when needed would allow the soils and road surface to provide fair performance under the anticipated traffic loads.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 8/29/08

VEGETATION

Affected Environment: The vicinity of the proposed right-of-way is dominated by sagebrush-grass and mountain shrub plant communities. Dominant plants include Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*), fringed sagebrush (*A. frigida*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), green rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*), rubber rabbitbrush (*C. nauseosus*), *Penstemon* spp., Hood's phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), longleaf phlox (*P. longifolia*), false dandelion (*Agoseris glauca*), longleaf hawksbeard (*Crepis acuminatus*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*), western wheatgrass (*A. smithii*), Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), prairie junegrass (*Koeleria pyramidata*), and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa sandbergii*). Numerous other forbs are present and are indicative of the high level of diversity found throughout the area. Vigor is high and litter is abundant.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed action would result in direct removal of approximately 1.5 acres of native vegetation on public lands. This removal would be negligible within the larger plant community. Indirect impacts would result from the introduction of weed species along the periphery of new earth work. This is to be expected and the overall vigor and density of the surrounding plant community would restrict this introduction of weeds and sites favorable to weeds to the edge of the road disturbance. The proposed road would not result in the ability of the surrounding plant communities to continue to provide high quality forage, watershed protection, and habitat.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 8/14/08

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC

Affected Environment: Not applicable.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Tim Novotny, 8/18/08

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL

Affected Environment: The proposed project area provides year round habitat for mule deer, elk and pronghorn antelope including severe winter range for mule deer and elk. A variety of reptiles, songbirds and small mammals may be found within the project area as well.

Environmental Consequences: The construction of the new portions of access road would result in temporary displacement of wildlife in the project area. If these activities are conducted during the winter months, it could displace wintering big game into less suitable habitat. If conducted outside of winter months surrounding habitat should be sufficient to support displaced animals. Most big game animals would be able to return to the project area once construction is complete. The development of new road and the upgrade of existing road is not likely to have a long term impact to any big game animals.

Timing restrictions in place to protect nesting sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse would offer additional protection to nesting songbirds. Most small mammals and reptiles should be capable of avoiding the project area during construction. It is possible that some animals would be entrapped and killed by earth-moving equipment during construction. This would be a short term localized impact. It would not affect any species population in the area.

Mitigative Measures: No surface disturbing activities should be conducted between December 1 and April 30 in order to protect winter big game animals.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 8/18/08

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Fluid Minerals	MDW 8/18/08		
Forest Management	MAA 8/11/08		
Hydrology/Ground		MDW 8/18/08	
Hydrology/Surface		OO 8/29/08	
Paleontology		MDW 8/18/08	
Range Management		JHS 8/14/08	
Realty Authorizations	MAA 8/11/08		
Recreation/Travel Mgmt		RS 8/11/08	
Socio-Economics		MAA 8/11/08	
Solid Minerals		JAM 8/12/08	

Visual Resources		RS 8/11/08	
Wild Horse & Burro Mgmt	MAA 8/11/08		

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: Cumulative impacts of the proposed action on public lands would be minimal and localized, provided that the holder adheres to the terms, conditions and stipulations of the right-of-way grant. All but about 900 feet of the proposed road already exists as a two-track and, due to the controlled access afforded by a private locked gate adjacent to Moffat County Road 2, is used only occasionally by the property owners. Traffic consists of pickup trucks and farm equipment driven by the property owners. Traffic flow would remain low under the proposed action, as the public lands portions of the road are not accessible by the general public. No additional roads would be required to be constructed on public lands as a result of the implementation of the proposed action.

STANDARDS:

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (animal) STANDARD: The proposed project area provides productive wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Public lands within the project area provide year round habitat for mule deer, elk and pronghorn antelope. Timing restrictions should protect big game animals during winter months. Displacement from the project area during construction can be expected. Surrounding undisturbed habitats would be sufficient to support displaced animals during other times of the year. Approximately 1 ½ acres of habitat would be lost on BLM lands as a result of this project. This standard is currently being met and would continue to be met in the future.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 8/18/08

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (animal) STANDARD: There are no threatened and endangered species or habitats for such species within the proposed project area. The project area does provide nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. Approximately 1 ½ acres of nesting habitat would be lost as a result of this project. The proposed project is not likely to have any impacts on breeding grounds for either species. This standard is currently being met and would continue to be met in the future.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 8/18/08

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (plant) STANDARD: This area is currently meeting this standard. The proposed road improvements would directly remove/disturb native vegetation, but the plant communities affected possess sufficient density, diversity, and vigor to be resilient to this type of disturbance. The proposed action would not adversely affect the plant community's ability to continue to meet this standard.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 8/14/08

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (plant)

STANDARD: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 8/14/08

RIPARIAN SYSTEMS STANDARD: There are no wetlands or riparian zones on public lands within the project area. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 8/18/08

WATER QUALITY STANDARD: The water quality standard for healthy rangelands would be met with implementation of the Proposed Action. Runoff from snowmelt and summer storms would drain from the access road area onto adjacent surface and into stream segments that are presently supporting classified uses. Stream drainages in the vicinity of the project are tributary to the Little Snake River. No stream segments are listed as impaired.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 8/29/08

UPLAND SOILS STANDARD: The proposed action would require a small area of the upland soil resource to support a different activity that is not consistent with the characteristics of a healthy soil; the upland soils that are mapped along the proposed access road are capable of supporting this use with the planned upgrades and alignment to reduce the grade. The improved access road crossing public lands is necessary for private property access and is designed to avoid excessive soil erosion. Adjacent soils not directly affected by the road would continue to function as healthy upland soils.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 8/29/08

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
EA CO-100-2008-092

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA and all other available information, I have determined that the proposal and the alternatives analyzed do not constitute a major Federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Little Snake Resource Area and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas, or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.
5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State, or local natural resource related plans, policies, or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys, and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.
9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.

10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have determined that authorization of the communications site and access road are in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to issue the ROW grant with mitigation measures to Donald H. “Jeff” Reid, Jr. The grant is for construction, operation, maintenance and termination of an access road located on public land:

T. 12 N., R. 89 W., Sec. 29, Lot 6; Sec. 32, Lots 2, 9, 6th P.M., Moffat County, Colorado. The access road would be approximately 3,175 feet long and 20 feet wide, measuring a total of 1.46 acres. The grant is issued for 20 years with the right of renewal. This project will be monitored as stated in the Compliance Plan outlined below.

It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management to grant land use authorizations to occupy and use public land where such is consistent with resource values; the Bureau’s planning system and local government concerns. To this effect, no conflicts were found; the action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The action is consistent with the Little Snake Resource Management Plan. The proposed use, as planned and mitigated, is a suitable use of the land, which will not conflict, with the present or known future use of the area. The action is consistent with Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761) and the regulations authorizing use of federal land under 43 CFR 2800.

MITIGATION MEASURES: See ROW Grant, Exhibit B, Stipulations.

COMPLIANCE PLAN(S):

Compliance Schedule: The access road will be on a five-year compliance schedule after issuance of the lease.

Monitoring Plan: The access road will be monitored during the term of the right-of-way for compliance with the grant, stipulations, POD and pertinent regulations until final reclamation is approved or the site is relinquished; monitoring will help determine the effectiveness of mitigation and document the need for additional mitigative measures.

Assignment of Responsibility: Responsibility for implementation of the compliance schedules and monitoring plans will be assigned to the Realty staff in the Little Snake Field Office. The primary inspector will be the Realty Specialist.

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED: